

Message Text

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SUBJECT: US-SPANISH COUNCIL MEETING OCTOBER 4: REPORT OF
THE JOINT COMMITTEE FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

1. EMBASSY HAS PREPARED THE FOLLOWING DRAFT REPORT FROM
THE JOINT COMMITTEE FOR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL CO-
OPERATION TO THE US-SPANISH COUNCIL, COVERING THE PERIOD
OCTOBER 1977 - SEPTEMBER 1978. WE WILL BE REVIEWING THIS
WITH THE SPANISH NEXT WEEK. BEGIN TEXT: DURING THE PAST
YEAR THE JOINT COMMITTEE FOR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL
COOPERATION HAS FACED TWO PRINCIPAL CHALLENGES: FIRST,
TO CHOOSE AMONG COMPETING DEMANDS FOR COMMITTEE PROGRAM
FUNDS FROM ALL SECTORS OF THE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL
COMMUNITIES; SECOND, TO ENSURE THAT THE COMMITTEE'S FUNDS
BE DIRECTED INTO ACTIVITIES WHICH HAVE THE MOST IMMEDIATE
AND DIRECT ECONOMIC BENEFIT TO SPAIN.

2. TO MEET THESE CHALLENGES, THE COMMITTEE AGREED AFTER
CONSIDERABLE DISCUSSION AND FREQUENT CONSULTATION WITH
THE SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITIES THAT IN EVALUATING APPLICA-
TIONS FOR GRANTS THE HIGHEST PRIORITY SHOULD BE GIVEN TO
PROJECTS IN THE AREAS OF APPLIED SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
ESSENTIAL TO SPAIN'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AT THIS TIME,
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RATHER THAN TO BASIC SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH. THE COMMITTEE
FURTHER AGREED THAT COOPERATIVE RESEARCH PROJECTS BETWEEN
AMERICAN AND SPANISH GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, AND IN SOME
INSTANCES PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS, WOULD BE THE MOST EF-
FECTIVE MECHANISM FOR PROVIDING THE HUMAN AND MATERIAL
RESOURCES FROM WHICH SPAIN'S APPLIED SCIENCE AND TECH-
NOLOGY WOULD DERIVE IMMEDIATE BENEFIT.

3. THE COMMITTEE HAS ALSO RECOGNIZED THE NEED FOR GREATER

COOPERATION AND COORDINATION AMONG RESEARCHERS WORKING ON SEPARATE PROJECTS IN THE SAME FIELD. THIS NEED HAS BECOME APPARENT IN SUCH FIELDS AS AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH, WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND OCEANOGRAPHY, WHICH, BECAUSE OF THE INTERDISCIPLINARY CHARACTER, ARE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF MORE THAN ONE AGENCY IN EACH GOVERNMENT. THE COMMITTEE WILL BE CONSIDERING WAYS TO IMPROVE COOPERATION AND COORDINATION IN THESE AREAS OF RESEARCH.

4. THE COMMITTEE HAS BEEN GRATIFIED BY THE HIGH LEVEL OF INTEREST IN THE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM IN BOTH COUNTRIES, AS INDICATED BY THE OVERWHELMING RESPONSE TO ANNOUNCEMENTS INVITING THE SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS FOR GRANTS. THERE HAS BEEN, MOREOVER, AN INCREASING NUMBER OF EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST FROM THE TWO SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITIES IN THE NEXT ROUND OF GRANTS.

5. THE COMMITTEE HAS MADE 141 GRANTS TO DATE WITH A TOTAL VALUE OF \$4,879,193. THESE GRANTS ARE OF THE FOLLOWING TYPES:

COOPERATIVE RESEARCH	31	\$3,393,096
SPANISH RESEARCH	5	217,020
EQUIPMENT FOR SPANISH CENTERS	20	647,322

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POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS (SPANISH)	50	540,130
RESEARCH TRAVEL (SPANISH)	35	81,625

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE NEXT ROUND OF APPLICATIONS FOR GRANTS WILL BE MADE LATER THIS YEAR.

6. THE JOINT COMMITTEE HAS AGREED THAT, IN ORDER TO MAKE UP FOR DELAYS EXPERIENCED IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAM, AND TO ENSURE ADEQUATE LEVELS OF FUNDING FOR MULTI-YEAR COOPERATIVE RESEARCH PROJECTS OF HIGH POTENTIAL WORTH, THE FIVE YEARS OF FUNDING UNDER THE TREATY WILL BE COMPRESSED INTO FOUR PROGRAM CYCLES. A BUDGET FOR THE SECOND PROGRAM CYCLE OF SLIGHTLY OVER \$5 MILLION WAS APPROVED ON JULY 12, 1978:

PROJECT SUPPORT (GRANTS):		
COOPERATIVE RESEARCH		\$3,773,239
SPANISH RESEARCH AND		
INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT	565,279	
POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS	504,165	
RESEARCH TRAVEL	46,000	

ADMINISTRATION:

JOINT ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF	69,630
PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT TRAVEL	25,000
CONTINGENCIES	33,235

TOTAL	\$5,016,548

7. FORMAL MEETINGS OF THE COMMITTEE WERE HELD ON OCTOBER 18, 1977 AND JUNE 20, 1978. THE NEXT SUCH MEETING IS SCHEDULED TENTATIVELY FOR NOVEMBER 1978.

8. THERE ARE NO ISSUES ON WHICH THE COMMITTEE SEEKS THE COUNCIL'S GUIDANCE AT THIS TIME. END TEXT.

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9. REQUEST DEPARTMENT COMMENTS SOONEST. BARBOUR

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